



HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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September 19, 2005

Mr. Donald Silawsky  
Office of Petroleum Reserves, (FE-47)  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585-0301

RE: Proposed Expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve  
(Richton, Mississippi)

Dear Mr. Silawsky:

We have reviewed the documents you provided in your letter of September 13, 2005, concerning the proposed expansion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We have also received a phone call from ICF Consulting regarding this matter. Our understanding is that, in the interest of a speedy completion of the EIS, the consultants would obtain all known information regarding the Richton, Mississippi alternative, but that a cultural resources survey would only be conducted once the preferred alternative was selected and only of that alternative.

This plan is agreeable to us and we anticipate working with the consultants in due course in providing information on file in our records. Should the Richton site be selected as the preferred alternative, we would anticipate working with you and your consultants in evaluating a cultural resources survey and providing appropriate comments.

If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

H. T. Holmes  
State Historic Preservation Officer

BY: Thomas H. Waggener  
Review and Compliance Officer